

AGENDA ITEM: Resource Libraries Program Development

ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING: Update on the development of the resources libraries component of the Library of California program.

BACKGROUND:

At the June 2000 Board Meeting, the Board requested that regular updates be made on the Resource Libraries program component, and that this component be assigned to the Access Services Committee for discussion and consideration of issues. To date, there has been little activity related to the Resource Libraries program; however, it is an element that is included in the Library of California Act.

Section 18859 of the Library of California Act states the following:

Major resource libraries statewide may participate in these programs through the statewide resource libraries group, developing protocols whereby their resources may be accessed appropriately by people throughout California. Each library must be a member or a participating library in a regional library network.

- a. Funds may be allocated to some or all libraries in this group for services delivered and performed under this article.
- b. Collaborative and cooperative projects advancing library services to the people of California may be undertaken and supported by some or all members of this group.

In the January 1996 publication entitled **The Library of California**, issued by the California Library Networking Task Force, there is a description of the Statewide Resource Libraries Group on pages 59-60. (Exhibit A) Included in this section are preliminary criteria for being a statewide resource library. These include:

- Meeting all criteria for membership in a regional library network
- Being either an academic library with 1.5 million volumes, or a public library with 1.5 million volumes and adding at least 15,000 titles per year.
- The California State Library is considered a statewide resource library
- The California State University system is considered a statewide resource library, as none of its libraries met the volume requirement.

It was recognized that development of regional library networks would occur before the planning process for the Statewide Resource Libraries. However, during the course of planning for networks, there was a necessity

to determine the criteria and function for regional resource libraries. In addition, those libraries categorized as resource libraries have been inundated by requests from regions to be their resource library. UC and CSU librarians are now expressing their concern that the role and function of resource libraries now needs to be addressed, particularly in light of the dramatic changes to library services since the 1996 document was published.

Program Activities to Date:

March-May 2000	Meetings with representatives of CSU Library Directors to discuss their role in this program
March 2000	Meeting with the UC Library Directors to discuss their role.
April 2000 to present:	Recruitment for the Library Program Consultant position to coordinate the program
July 2000:	Began developing agenda for a meeting of currently identified Statewide Resource Libraries to occur in September 2000.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

1. Update on development of the Resource Libraries component.
2. Consideration of a model for funding the Resource Libraries program.

Relevant Committee: Access Services
Staff Liaison: Diana Paque